

The Treaty Bureau,
Foreign Ministry

December 1941
3904A

Report of Activities
For the Year
1941

Excerpted from p. 46

Section XVIII

Protocol Relative to the Extension of the Term of Validity
of the Agreement against the Communist International

1) The Circumstances Leading to the Conclusion of the Protocol

The agreement concluded on 25 November 1936 at Berlin between Japan and Germany, that is the so-called Anti-Comintern Pact, was joined by Italy as an original signatory on 6 November 1937. Hungary, Manchoukuo and Spain also participated therein afterwards. Article III of the Pact had fixed its term of validity to be five years, and stipulated that the contracting Powers should, prior to the expiration of that term, come to an understanding as to the form of coöperation between them thereafter. Inasmuch as the term was to expire on 24 November 1941, it had been expected that the contracting Powers would hold consultation with respect to the handling of the Pact.

In the meantime, the German Foreign Minister revealed, to Foreign Minister Matsuoka who visited Germany in March 1941, the desire on their part to have the term of the Anti-Comintern Pact extended. On 24 October, the German Ambassador at Tokyo, in accordance with the instructions of his home Government, officially proposed to extend the term of validity of the Anti-Comintern Pact by five years. And again on the 27th of the same month, the Italian Ambassador at Tokyo also conveyed to the Japanese Government that the Italian Government was of the same opinion as the German Government.

The Japanese Government, upon investigating the desires of the German and Italian Governments, considered it proper to open negotiations for the extension of the term of validity of the Pact, in consideration of the fact that even today, five years after its conclusion, the necessity is still keenly felt for coöperation for defence against the Communist destruction, which constitutes the object of the Anti-Comintern Pact. And on 30 October, the reply of the Foreign Minister was given to the German and Italian Ambassadors at Tokyo to the effect that the Japanese Government agreed to the commencement of the negotiations for the extension of the term of validity. It was decided, at the same time, that negotiations concerning particulars should be made at Berlin. After that, our Ambassador at Berlin negotiated with the German and Italian sides, and obtained the final draft. Further a proposal was made, under joint signature of the three original signatories, Japan, Germany and Italy, to Hungary, Manchoukuo and Spain, to extend the term of validity of the present Anti-Comintern Pact. The sanction of the respective Powers being obtained, the Protocol

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was signed by the above-mentioned six Powers.

Simultaneously, secret official notes were exchanged to abrogate the agreement annexed to the Anti-Comintern Pact.

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

Nishi Haruhiko (seal)

Tokyo
29 January 1948